



NEWS

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Open Burning Seasons for Flood Debris and Crop Replacement Begin

The open burning seasons for the purposes of crop replacement and for the removal of wood and vegetation debris deposited by flood will begin Sunday, October 1, 2000 according to Ellen Garvey, Air Pollution Control Officer for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

The open burning season for crop replacement -- establishing an agricultural crop in a location which formerly contained another type of agricultural crop or natural growth runs through April 30, 2001 while the season for flood debris burning will end May 31, 2001. These fires must be set or allowed by the public fire official having jurisdiction and may also require a local fire permit.

Open burning has been regulated in the Bay Area since 1957 because of its considerable contribution to air pollution. While backyard burning of leaves, trash, and grass cuttings or prunings has been prohibited in the Bay Area since 1970, certain fires for agricultural purposes, flood control, fire training and the prevention of fire hazards are exempted from District regulations for specified periods throughout the year.

Although certain fires are allowed during the appropriate burn season, each day of the year is designated as either a BURN or a NO BURN day. Days when air pollution caused by open burning would be minimized by favorable weather conditions are designated as BURN days.

Allowed fires can only take place on a BURN day. This means that even though a burn season may be in effect, the party seeking open burn authorization must check with the Air District for daily burn status prior to burning. BURN/NO BURN days are forecasted by 3 p.m. on the District's toll-free number **1-800-HELP-AIR** for the following day.

Open burning seasons apply to the entire Bay Area, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma counties. For additional information, residents may call the District's Public Information Office at (415) 749-4900. To register complaints about illegal burning or other odor problems, call the District's 24-hour complaint line at 1-800-334-ODOR.

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